

**Friendship Heights  
Transportation Management District  
Advisory Committee  
September 9, 2014**

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**Voting Members**

James Calderwood  
Barbara Condos  
Campbell Graeb  
Christopher Itteilag  
Cobey R. Kuff  
John Mertens  
Rachael Schacherer

Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers  
Town of Somerset  
Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights  
Somerset House Management Association  
WP Project Developer, LLC  
Friendship Heights Village  
Friendship Heights Village

**Non-voting Members**

Sandra L. Brecher  
Matthew Folden

MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services  
M-NCPPC

**TMD Staff**

Jim Carlson  
Nakengi Byrd  
Mike Cafarelli

MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services  
MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services  
MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services

**Absent**

Joe Dixon  
Chief John Fitzgerald  
Tiffany Gee (Chair)  
Kenneth Hartman

GEICO  
Chevy Chase Village Police  
Chevy Chase Land Company  
B-CC Services Center

**Guests**

Bob Joiner  
Julian Mansfield  
Aruna Miller  
Jeffrey Slavin

The Agenda News  
Village of Friendship Heights  
MD Delegation (D-Dist. 5)  
Mayor – Town of Somerset

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**Abbreviations:**

ICC = Intercounty Connector  
MDOT = Maryland Dept. of Transportation  
M-NCPPC = Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
MSHA = Maryland State Highway Administration

**Item 1, 2&3 – Introductions/Minutes/Chair Comments:** Barbra Condos served as Acting Chair for Tiffany Gee and called meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Jim Carlson** presented two certificates of thanks from **County Executive Isiah Leggett** to **Cobey Kuff** for his participation in Bike to Work Day and for his service to the Committee.

**Item 4 – Discussion with Delegate Aruna Miller:** Ms. Condos introduced District 15 **State Delegate Aruna Miller**. **Del. Miller** began the discussion with some facts about Maryland. She explained that Maryland is number one in highest educated residents, and it has the highest median income with the most millionaires.

However, in terms of equitable treatment from the State, Montgomery County does not fare as well. Due to \$.47 of each dollar going to education, Montgomery County does not receive a fair share of State funds. The reason for lack of funding is because State aid is allocated based on tax base, or percentage of students in K-12; a disproportionately high number of students attend private schools in the County, thus reducing the tax base. **Del. Miller** also noted that most of the Maryland State colleges have Montgomery County students.

Also discussed:

- Gas tax increase to fund transportation and capital projects.
- Vehicle Emissions Program-Federal mandated law to remind drivers of vehicle upkeep.
- Bicycle Pedestrian Priority Area initiative, introduced by **Councilmember Hans Riemer** to fast track biking infrastructure construction. Short and long term improvements for biking infrastructure will be made such as signage, road marking and bike racks at five locations: Silver Spring CBD, Wheaton, Grosvenor, Glenmont and Veirs Mill/Randolph Roads.

**Campbell Graeub** raised several concerns:

- There continues to be a lack of construction coordination for road work projects in the area, causing congestion and impeding commuters on key roadways.
- Barrels placed on Wisconsin Avenue are narrowing the lanes. Construction appears to be complete, but the barrels remain in place.
- The handicap access ramp in front of Clyde's on Wisconsin Avenue is a pedestrian hazard which could cause someone to fall. **Jim Carlson** said he had followed up on the issue and was told by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) that the raised curbs around the structure were meant to assist the sight-impaired who rely on canes to find the correct crosswalk.
- **Del. Miller** agreed with the lack of coordination regarding road construction projects, saying she will pass all concerns on to the County's Permitting Services Office and other appropriate agencies.

There was discussion regarding the Intercounty Connector (ICC) and gas tax allocation:

- Some on the Committee believe the gas tax is appropriately considered a "user fee" rather than a tax, and money should be devoted to areas where fees are collected. Maryland does not have a non-diversion requirement
- **Del. Miller** reported of the \$4.4 billion from the 2013 Transportation Infrastructure Act, \$1 billion goes to Montgomery County.
- Question on 2014 ballot – Transportation Trust fund lock box: The governor may tap funds only in case of fiscal emergency and with 2/3 vote of the Maryland House and Senate; funds must be repayed in 5 years.
- Maryland speed limits are based on the 85 percentile which is not followed for the ICC, making it a speed trap with low speed limits, heavy enforcement and high tolls. **Del. Miller** produced a bill to increase the speed limit from 55 to 60 miles an hour.
- **Del. Miller** discussed her interactions with other agencies, such as the Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) and the Department of Transportation (MDOT). Concerns from constituents are forwarded to appropriate agencies and they are asked to weigh in on proposed legislation.

The majority of concerns she receives are transportation related. Contacting state legislators is the best way to have issues addressed.

**Mr. Carlson** introduced new Commuter Services Marketing Specialist **Michael Cafarelli**, who will be working with Friendship Heights employers.

**VOTE: The Committee approved April and May's minutes with changes.**

**Item 5- Election-FY15 Committee Chair and Vice Chair:**

**VOTE: The Committee elected Tiffany Gee as Chair and Barbra Condos as Vice Chair.**

**Mr. Carlson** reported that **Ms. Gee** asked that a formal vote regarding parking on Wisconsin Avenue be tabled until she returns from maternity leave.

**Item 6 – Updates: Mr. Carlson** announced:

- The Walk and Ride challenge is currently underway-15 teams/65 participants in Friendship Heights using a pedometer compete for the most steps logged.
- Car Free Day on September 22<sup>nd</sup>-Information at Friendship Heights Metro station and major bus stops and transfer stations.
- Ride On route changes effective 9/7/14-extension of route to the new Holy Cross Hospital.
- Online Maryland Open Meetings Act training tutorial, which defines the rules and laws of conducting and managing open meetings-recommended for Chairs and Vice Chairs by the County Executive

**Sandra Brecher** announced:

- Commuter Services attended the Montgomery County Fair-shared an information booth with Ride On staff.
- Maryland Transit Administration granted enrollment extension for the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program- free annual Capital Bikeshare membership for low income commuters who live or work in Montgomery County.
- Bike to College Day at Montgomery College (Rockville Campus) 9/22/14 @ 6am

**Item 7 – Around the Room: Mr. Graeb** reported that he was concerned about bikeshare usage in Friendship Heights area. Although has been reported that the two stations located at Wisconsin Circle and Friendship Boulevard were the most used in Montgomery County, he has not seen many people using the bikes. He presented data obtained for the month of July from Alta Bikeshare for the two stations:

- 132 total trips at the Wisconsin Circle location for the month of July.
- There are a few users of the stations that make frequent trips, accounting for most activity.
- Too soon to analyze data because stations have not been open a full year
- **Ms. Brecher** explained that commuters who use bikeshare also own bikes – bikeshare is more convenient and safer because it reduces the chance of their bikes being stolen or vandalized.
- Bikeshare is in demand, but there is currently not enough funding to fill the demand.
- Other countries use a 'clunker share' system, where bikes are simply left in various locations and commuters are free to use whenever bikes are needed.

**Chris Itteilag** reported that at the last Sommerset Community meeting the general consensus was in opposition to a lane of Wisconsin Avenue being used for parking.

**Adjourn: Next meeting October 14, 2014**